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No Peace Congress has ever been better reported by the press than the recent one. The leading papers of Antwerp and Brussels had representatives present and most excellent accounts of the proceedings appeared in their columns.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The second general meeting of the Society of the Peace Bureau took place at Antwerp on August 28th, at 2 p. m., in the Royal Atheneum, the day previous to the meeting of the Peace Congress. Mr. Fredrik Bajer, the President, presided. The Secretary, Mr. Elie Ducommun, read the report of the work of the past year. The income of the year had been 4422 francs, coming from donations of societies and private individuals, and from a grant made by the Swiss Federal Council. The auditors, Mr. Perrin and the Baron von Suttner, reported that the accounts had been correctly kept. The Commission of the Bureau was instructed to send to the peace societies an account of the expenses and an indication of what would be necessary for another year; to aid Mr. La Fontaine in making a new edition of his *Bibliography of Peace*; to ask the publishers of journals treating of the subjects of peace and war to send copies to the library of the Bureau at Berne; and to make as complete a collection as possible of works giving the history of the peace movement, especially from 1843 to 1889.

Fredrik Bajer, Copenhagen, Elie Ducommun, Berne, Dr. A. Gobat, Berne, Dr. W. Marcusen, Berne, Hodgson Pratt, London, Frederic Passy, Paris, Emile Arnaud, Paris, Henri La Fontaine, Brussels, A. Mazzoleni, Milan, Baroness von Suttner, Vienna, Dr. Adolph Richter, Pforzheim, Dr. Franz Wirth, Frankfurt, Nicola Fleva, Bucharest, Belva A. Lockwood, Washington, and Benjamin F. Trueblood, Boston, were elected Members of the Commission of the Bureau for the coming year.

A battle was fought on the 16th of September at Ping Yang in the northwestern part of Corea between the Japanese and Chinese troops. The Japanese were victorious and the Chinese army which is estimated to have had 20,000 men was practically destroyed, a large portion of the troops having been taken prisoners. The Chinese troops which had had European drill stood their ground and were all killed. Large stores of provisions and munitions of war were captured. The Japanese loss is said to have been small.

Two days later a naval battle was fought at the mouth of the Yalu river. The Chinese war-ships, ten in number, were accompanying transports which were landing troops at the mouth of the river, when they were attacked by the Japanese fleet of eleven vessels. The battle lasted five hours and from the first reports seems to have been with-

out victory to either side. Later reports show that the Japanese were really victorious and that the Chinese fleet was seriously weakened if not permanently disabled. Four Chinese ships were sunk and three of the Japanese disabled. The scene is said to have been appalling toward the close of the battle. The big ships battered into uselessness were rolling helplessly and threatening to sink, great disaster having been caused on board, and as they sank many of the crew clung to the rigging and screamed piteously for help.

This battle proves, as has been prophesied, that a sea-fight between modern war-ships must necessarily be attended with fearful disaster to both sides.

Great consternation prevails at Pekin, and it is feared that there will be a general massacre of foreigners. The captain of the Chinese turret ship, Tsi Yuen, has been beheaded for cowardice at Yalu. Li Hung Chang, who has been viceroy for a quarter of a century, is to be deposed and superseded by Wu Ta Cheng. The Japanese Government has decided to prosecute the war vigorously before winter. In addition to the 50,000 troops already in Corea, 80,000 more have been ordered to the front. The latest reports say that the Chinese army at Heijo on the Yalu river which was expected to oppose the march of the main Japanese army has mutinied, because without ammunition and cut off from its base of supplies. Though the reports are conflicting, it seems certain that Japan is having things nearly all her own way. Corea has formed a strong alliance with her. It is said to be the purpose of Japan permanently to weaken China by having her divided into three kingdoms. One of these it is proposed to give to Li Hung Chang who is aware of the purpose of Japan.

In the boundary dispute between Colombia and Venezuela, Spain, which was made arbiter, has rendered a decision in favor of the former country. Venezuela was dissatisfied and President Crespo tried to induce Colombia to give up a part of the territory given her by the award. The offers made were rejected by Colombia, and the relations between the two countries are reported to be somewhat strained. We shall hope that time will create a right feeling, and that nothing serious may result.

It is semi-officially reported that representatives of Italy and of the United States of Colombia have signed a protocol agreeing to submit to President Cleveland, as arbiter, Italy's claim for reparation for the treatment of the Italian subject, Cerruti, who is alleged to have been illegally arrested and imprisoned in Colombia. He has been liberated and is now in Italy.

The Rebellion in Brazil has broken out again in Rio Grande do Sul and at four different points there has been fighting between the insurgents and the Government troops. The people are joining the Rebels on the frontier. Da Gama has protested against the reopening of hostili-

ties, thinking that it will prevent the exiles in Montevideo from returning to their homes which they hope they will be permitted to do when Moraes assumes the presidency.

A new commercial and political treaty between the United States and Japan is being drawn, and will be submitted to the Senate for ratification this fall. The tariff convention of 1857 will be modified so that Japan will be able to levy a higher duty on imports than heretofore. The new duties will still be levied on a purely revenue basis, and will average about 15 per cent. instead of five as heretofore. The political sections of the treaty will not take effect for five years. The chief of these will be the abolition in Japan of consular courts and the opening of the whole of Japan to foreign merchants. The treaty will closely resemble the one ratified between England and Japan on the 25th of August last.

The Secretary of the American Peace Society returned from Europe on the 18th ult., after having attended the Peace Congress at Antwerp and the Interparliamentary Peace Conference at The Hague. He also visited Brussels, the battlefield of Waterloo, Amsterdam, Leyden and Delft. The whole trip was a pleasant one, the weather being for the most part all that could be desired for travelling.

The Rindge Industrial School at Cambridge, Mass., has introduced fire drill in place of the military drill for the physical development of the boys. One of the Fire Commissioners says of the change:

Instead of theoretical soldiers, Superintendent Ellis is making practical firemen. The modern methods of fire-fighting are sufficiently scientific and exacting to produce as large results, whether physical or disciplinary, as any sought by military drill. He has his forces well organized, officered and equipped. They operate, in somewhat reduced form perhaps, all the appliances and machinery that are used in large city departments. They throw ladders, connect and run lines of hose, work hand-engines, and respond to their local alarm system with a promptness, enthusiasm, and system worthy of emulation by more veteran organizations. Of course not all these youthful amateurs, or even a very large percentage of them, will become firemen. But the benefits of their drill will remain with them, whatever callings they pursue. Certainly they will have gained what so small a portion of the public has to-day—a clear apprehension of the gravity of fire risks in cities and towns, and intelligent ideas with respect to both prevention and cure.

None of the objections which are so justly brought against the military drill can be brought against the fire drill. The training thus given would be in every way useful, and the fire drill can be introduced into the schools at less expense than the military. Why not try the experiment in the public schools and colleges? We hope that many institutions will follow the example of the Cambridge Industrial School.

Our readers will enjoy the poem which we publish in this number of the *ADVOCATE*, in which Mr. Hezekiah Butterworth tells the interesting and instructive story of the manner in which San Martin, the liberator of Chile, Peru and Argentina, refused to receive any reward in gold or office for the services which he had performed. It is one of the best poems that we have seen from Mr. Butterworth's pen.

The horrors of the forest fires in Minnesota and Wisconsin in the early days of September are almost beyond belief. Whole towns swept out of existence, great forests consumed, immense stores of lumber burned, railway trains abandoned and consumed, hundreds of people burned to death and their bodies charred beyond recognition, people hiding away in holes and caves or plunging into ponds and lakes to escape the madness of the flames,—these expressions convey next to nothing of what was endured during the awful hours of the fire-storm, the like of which has never before been known in the Northwest.

Massachusetts was the second State in the Union to add Labor Day to its list of holidays. The third of September was so observed this year as a national holiday, and was generally kept throughout the Union. There were great parades of the labor organizations in all the principal cities.

Unquestionably the most important event of September in the United States has been the reopening of the schools and colleges. Not much noise and parade has accompanied the reopening of the educational institutions, but what a world of good to the country in the coming years is suggested by the mere mention of the occurrence! The greatest forces of civilization are those that work perpetually and noiselessly.

The "Society for Education Extension," Hartford, Ct., has founded a "School of Sociology," and issued its announcement for the first year. So far as we know, this is the first professional school of this kind ever established. The President is Dr. C. D. Hartranft. The curriculum is to cover three years, and the courses for the first year will be: The Methodology of Sociology, The Philosophy of Sociology, The Family, The Evolution of the Family, The Family Legally considered, The Family Theologically and Ethically considered, Heredity, The Status of Woman, Domestic Economy, Population, General and Special Statistics, Ethnology, Effect of Environment, The Community, Growth of Cities and Decline of the Country, etc. We notice among the lecturers professors from a number of eminent institutions of learning.

We have not room in this number to give any account of the Interparliamentary Peace Conference which met at The Hague on the 4th, 5th and 6th of September. We shall give next month some of the leading points of interest connected with this important meeting.